North Dakota Project Business Case

PROJECT BUSINESS CASE

Project Name: CARS Phase II – Handheld Development

Project Short Name: CARS Handheld Development

Agency: Department of Transportation

Business Unit/Program Area: Construction Division

Type of Project:

- New Initiative
- X Major enhancement/upgrade
- Application replacement
- Ongoing Initiative

Date: November 8, 2004

Version:

Project Description:

Create a fully functional, handheld extension to the Construction Automated Records System (CARS).

Business Need/Problem:

The current method CARS users have of managing data in CARS while on-site is with paper. By presenting the users with a means for entering and viewing data in an electronic format will allow them faster access to more data. It will also help to reduce duplication of effort, as the user will no longer need to write the information down and then re-enter the information upon return to the office the next morning.

Solution (as described in Proposed Solution):

The resulting product will be a fully functional, handheld extension to CARS which will provide for an automated means of transferring data into CARS. It will also supply the users with history of data for the project while on-site which would otherwise not be readily available.

Consistency/Fit with Organization's Mission:

This proposal is consistent with Objective 4.3, which plans for providing employees with effective and efficient engineering and information technology equipment.

Cost Benefit Analysis

Anticipated Benefits:

Creating a handheld extension to CARS will help to eliminate duplication of effort, by not having to enter information written on paper into CARS. It will eliminate the need to discern notes taken by others, thus possibly resulting in inaccuracies. An automated means of transferring data will be provided, which will result in a faster and more efficient means of managing data.

Cost Estimate:

The cost of creating a handheld extension to CARS is estimated at $100,000.

Cost/Benefit Analysis:

Project engineers on average spend several hours every day entering data into CARS at the office. The time spent in the office can be reduced by as much as fifty percent once this technology is incorporated into CARS. This will in turn allow the engineers to get to the project site earlier and carry more data about the project along with them. When problems arise, having the necessary information readily available will result in faster resolution and keep the project moving along.

Project Risks:

Users may not use the new tools and information it provides to their benefit and continue to use the current means of managing CARS data. Users may have a difficult time adjusting to handhelds and working with them. These risks can be minimized by creating a user-friendly application and providing the necessary training to the users to make them as comfortable as possible with the handheld devices.